



Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce

UN WOMEN ASIA PACIFIC NEWSLETTER | January–March 2018



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND ASIA-PACIFIC TO CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018



International Women's Day 2018 is an opportunity to transform this momentum into action, to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential.

Throughout Asia-Pacific, UN Women and partners organized series of events to celebrate an unprecedented global movement for women's rights, equality, safety and justice, recognizing the tireless work of activists who have been central to this global push for gender equality... [Read more ►](#)

UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS BANGLADESH



■ BANGLADESH

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka undertook her first official visit to Bangladesh from 30 January to 3 February. During her visit, the Executive Director met with key government and civil society partners as well as international development actors both in Dhaka and in Cox's Bazar, the focus of the response to the Rohingya refugee crisis.... [Read more ►](#)



“TRANSFORMING GENDER SOCIAL NORMS THROUGH COMEDY”

JAPANESE INTERNET SENSATION STARS AT TOKYO EVENT
SHOWCASING A NEW APPROACH TO PROMOTING PEACE

“I have a man, I have a woman, I have a smile, I have respect - Gender Equal Peaceful World!” With these words, Japanese pop sensation PIKOTARO debuted his new song, “Gender Equal Peaceful World” created in collaboration with UN Women, in Tokyo on 1 March. His live performance was part of an event showcasing the successes of UN Women's regional programme on Preventing Violent Extremism, and featuring a range of artists, satirists and other commentators... [Read more ►](#)



UN WOMEN CARRIES OLYMPIC TORCH, CALLS FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN SPORTS

■ SOUTH KOREA

UN Women Country Programme Manager in China, Julie Broussard carried the Olympic Torch in Paju, South Korea, leading up to the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. She called for gender equality in sport, following a recent renewal of the joint commitment with the International Olympic Committee to continue empowering women and girls through sport... [Read more ►](#)

AFTER THE MARAWI SIEGE:

WOMEN'S RECOVERY AND PEACE BUILDING IN THE PHILIPPINES



■ PHILIPPINES

Women displaced by the 2017 siege in Marawi City in the Philippine's southern island of Mindanao told UN Women that finding income generating opportunities to restore their livelihoods is their top priority. Women internally displaced by conflict and violent extremism often face multiple hardships. Loss of livelihoods, insecure housing, and a lack of access to services reduces women's ability to lead recovery efforts and rebuild their homes and communities... [Read more ►](#)

WOMEN AND THE PENAL SYSTEM: RIGHTS AND REMEDIES



■ THAILAND

Many women suffer rights abuses at the hands of the penal justice system. These include inadequate gender segregation in prisons, poor healthcare, and a loss of education opportunities, and their incarceration itself is often due to the lack of a gender-responsive approach in policing crimes such as drug offences, sex work and trafficking in persons. UN Women is advocating to promote the rights of women in detention and to shed light on the plight of this marginalized group... [Read more ►](#)

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, THE MISSING INGREDIENT FOR PEACE IN THAILAND'S SOUTHERN BORDER PROVINCES



■ THAILAND

"I finally broke the glass ceiling," said Patimoh Sadiyamu, the first Muslim woman to hold the position of vice provincial governor in Thailand's southern border provinces of Narathiwat, home to over 2 million residents, and the scene of escalating violence... [Read more ►](#)

THAILAND COMMITS TO ZERO TOLERANCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



■ THAILAND

A high-level seminar on "Zero Violence Society" was organized by Thailand's National Legislative Assembly on Society, Children, Women, the Disabled and Marginalized Groups, to demonstration solidarity in ending the world's worst pandemic... [Read more ►](#)

WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS NEED MORE PROTECTION FROM ABUSE:

BETTER REGULATION COULD HELP



■ BANGLADESH

Like many Bangladeshis, Shilpi signed up to work in the Middle East in a bid to improve her family's future. Her story of the ordeal that followed, of exploitation, discrimination and abuse, is all too common, especially amid the isolation and vulnerability of domestic work. The rights and empowerment of women migrant workers' rights was the subject of a stakeholder meeting in Dhaka on 7 February... [Read more ►](#)

HELPING ROHINGYA WOMEN STEP OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND RECLAIM THEIR DIGNITY

NOTES FROM THE FIELD:



■ BANGLADESH

One programme specialist provides her first-hand account of working in the Rohingya refugee camps in eastern Bangladesh, trying to improve the conditions for the women and girls who have suffered the worst abuses as they were driven from their homes in Myanmar. Part of the editorial series "A day in the life of..." which provides a glimpse into the daily work and challenges that UN Women staff face in the field... [Read more ►](#)

FIRST WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT POLICY LAUNCHED IN SOLOMON ISLANDS' MALAITA PROVINCE



■ SOLOMON ISLANDS

The first Malaita Women's Empowerment and Development Policy (MWEP) for the province of the Solomon Islands was unveiled on International Women's Day in the town of Auki, with a call for gender justice, equality, integration, inclusiveness and shared responsibility for sustainable development in the country... [Read more ►](#)

FIJI LAUNCHES NEW SERVICE DELIVERY PROTOCOL FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



■ FIJI

Women and children in Fiji confronted by violence will have improved access to timely and relevant services with the launch of a new Service Delivery Protocol on International Women's Day... [Read more ►](#)



NEW SUPPORT CENTRE FOR KIRIBATI WOMEN AND CHILDREN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

■ KIRIBATI

A Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre (KWCS) was opened with funding from the Australian government, including for technical support and training provided by UN Women and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. Services include free confidential counselling and legal information, as well as community awareness programmes... [Read more ►](#)

PAKISTAN'S CIVIL SERVICE NEEDS TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION

NEW RESEARCH SHOWS



■ PAKISTAN

Most of Pakistan's female civil servants are stuck in the bottom ranks by sexist attitudes, despite domestic laws and international obligations, a United Nations study has found... [Read more ►](#)

DOCUMENTARY PLAY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMAN PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PAKISTAN



■ PAKISTAN

The internationally acclaimed documentary play SEVEN was performed in Pakistan for the first time and a special guest was in the audience: Mukhtar Mai, a gang rape survivor and women's rights activist featured in the play... [Read more ►](#)

ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES COMMIT TO EMPOWER RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS AT HIGH-LEVEL UN FORUM



■ THAILAND

Senior officials across the Asia and Pacific region, representing ministries responsible for agriculture, rural development and gender equality, have agreed on key priorities for advancement of rural women's and girls' human rights at the Asia-Pacific High-level Meeting for the 62th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) concluded in Bangkok on 23 February... [Read more ►](#)

TIMOR-LESTE SIGNS DEAL WITH UN WOMEN TO IMPROVE GENDER EQUALITY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



■ TIMOR-LESTE

Timor-Leste is to collaborate with UN Women on its reform of the civil service to advance gender equality in public administration, including ensuring zero tolerance of sexual harassment and upholding equal opportunities... [Read more ►](#)

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IS KEY TO CONTROLLING HIV IN VIET NAM, VIRUS CO-DISCOVERER SAYS



■ VIET NAM

To control the spread of HIV, Viet Nam must protect the rights of affected women and empower them to participate in HIV prevention and response policies and their implementation, say experts including the virologist who helped... [Read more ►](#)

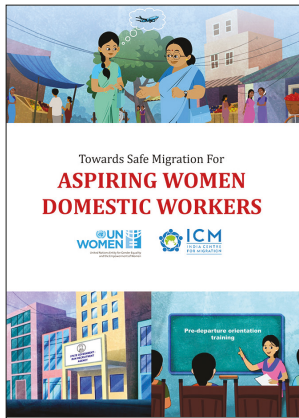
CHINA WOMEN LEADERSHIP FORUM 2018: HER WORLD



■ CHINA

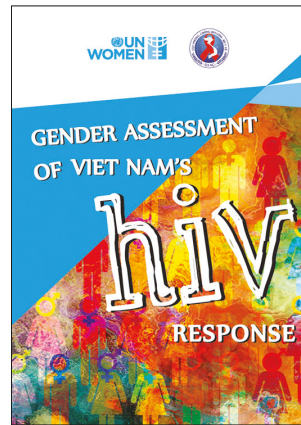
"Her World-Her Strength," the forum was jointly organized by UN Women, job-seeking website Zhilian Zhaopin, and CCTV's Survey on Chinese Lifestyle and Economy. With the theme "More Than This" this event was aimed at encouraging working women to overcome traditional gender norms, challenge prejudices and stereotypes, and call on all circles of society to pay close attention to the advancement of gender equality... [Read more ►](#)

PUBLICATIONS



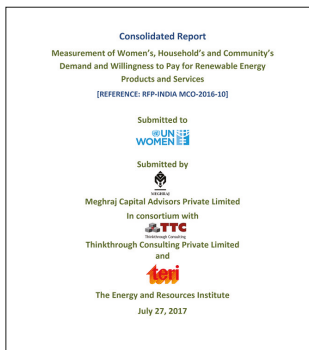
TOWARDS SAFE MIGRATION FOR ASPIRING WOMEN DOMESTIC WORKERS

India is one of the largest countries of origin, transit and destination for international migrants. A majority of Indian migrants in the Emigration Check Required category go to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Over the years, there has been an increasing trend of feminization of migration in the country, with women... [Read more ►](#)



GENDER ASSESSMENT OF VIET NAM'S HIV RESPONSE

Gender assessment of Viet Nam's HIV response presents a situation analysis of the gender dimension of HIV epidemic in Viet Nam. It identifies opportunities, gaps and challenges in mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of women in the national HIV response and provides a set of recommendations for improved HIV... [Read more ►](#)



MEASUREMENT OF WOMEN'S, HOUSEHOLD'S AND COMMUNITY'S DEMAND AND WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

UN Women and UNEP launched a global programme on Women's Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy (WESE) in six countries at the Paris Climate Conference (COP 21) in December 2015. In line with the objectives of the programme and with a view to inform the context-specific implementation roadmap of the programme for India, UN Women commissioned a study to Meghraj Capital Pvt Ltd to understand the willingness to pay for renewable energy products and services. The study was conducted in the four states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, and Uttar Pradesh and is based on surveys conducted with over 1600 women with a focus on marginalised.... [Read more ►](#)

VIDEOS



GENDER EQUAL PEACEFUL WORLD

YouTube star PIKOTARO follows up his viral sensation "PPAP" with a new hit to promote women's empowerment and peace, "Gender Equal Peaceful World", and is interviewed by UN Women Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Miwa Kato. #GEPW.



RUPANTOR

Short documentary which focused on youth's challenges and aspirations in preventing sexual harassment at educational spaces and creating a more safe and empowering environment for women and girls

DONATE



Globally, a staggering one in every three women has experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. Yet violence is not inevitable. It can be prevented. However, resources for initiatives to prevent and end violence against women and girls are severely lacking. We are trying to change this. With your help, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and UN Women can build a culture of non-violence and support women survivors of violence worldwide. Every little bit helps!

[DONATE NOW](#)

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. Operating in 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific region, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific focuses on ensuring gender equality and rights-based approach for ending violence against women, preventing violent extremism, women's economic empowerment, gender in humanitarian action, and HIV/AIDS response that can unlock progress across the board.

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